

Youth at Risk for Running Away

TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS AND STAFF

Data indicates youth with the characteristics below are at a higher risk for running away:

- Entered care as an adolescent
- Recent change in legal status (dependent to legally free)
- Have been in care one to two years, or five-plus years
- Has multiple placements (higher number of placements, higher the risk)
- Placement was a result of neglect
- Age 12 or older (highest risk are 15-17 year olds)
- Disconnected, unable to form positive relationships
- Youth who have previous runs (the more runs the higher the risk to run again)
- History of:
 - ➔ Alcohol/substance abuse
 - ➔ Mental health issues
 - ➔ Behavioral problems
 - ➔ Delinquency
 - ➔ Impulsiveness
 - ➔ Externalization of behaviors

The resources below may assist you in reducing or preventing a youth from running away:

- “How to Help a Youth at Risk to Run Tips for Caregivers”
- “Run Prevention Tips For Staff”
- “When Youth Returns From a Run Tips for Staff”
- “When a Youth Runs and Returns Tips for Caregivers”
- “Resource Information For Youth Who Are At Risk To Run”